



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
16 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE  
COMMISSIONER

July 20, 2010  
Subject: **Passenger Ferry Construction**  
Federal Project No: STP-1745(500)S  
State Pin No.017455.00  
**Amendment No. 5**

Dear Sir/Ms:

The following questions have been received:

**Question:** Section 1.4 General Description. On pages 6-7 of the Specifications (pages 144 – 145 of the Bid Book), the Specifications state “The Contractor shall ensure that the ferry is designed and constructed in accordance with the required ferry characteristics shown in table 1.1.” Table 1.1 labeled “Ferry Characteristics” then describes structural dimensional characteristics to tolerances of one-eighth of an inch! For example, “Length, overall” is specified to be “110’-4-5/8””. Building steel vessels of this size to that degree of tolerance is impractical and thus, not commercially reasonable. It is more customary within the industry to refer to structural dimensional characteristics as approximate lengths, for example, “Length, overall”, should be described as “approximately 110’ “. May the Contractor treat the structural dimensional characteristics called out in Table 1.1 as approximate?

**Response:** The builder must construct the vessel in accordance with the specifications and in accordance with accepted good shipbuilding practice.

**Question:** Section 1.4 General Description. Similar to the issue identified in the question above, the capacities of the tanks, such as “Fuel oil capacity”, are difficult to hold to a specific capacity like 4165 gallons. May the Contractor treat the tank capacities as approximate or the minimum amount they should hold?

**Response:** The builder must construct the vessel in accordance with the specifications and in accordance with accepted good shipbuilding practice.

**Question:** Section 1.4 General Description. The performance characteristics 1) “Speed, cruising [-] 10 knots” and 2) “Speed max [-] 121.5 knots” are characteristics more in control of the Designer Seaworthy System’s Inc’s hull design than a function of the Contractor’s construction. The Contractor has only been asked to build the vessel in accordance with said Designer’s design, not ensure that the vessel can perform at the specified speeds. May we request that those “Speed, cruising” and “Speed, max” be deleted from the Specifications or, in the alternative, be described as alternative speeds?



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**Response:** The builder must construct the vessel in accordance with the specifications and in accordance with accepted good shipbuilding practice.

Consider this information prior to submitting your bid on **July 21**, 2010

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Bickford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and the last name "Bickford" clearly distinguishable.

Scott Bickford  
Contracts & Specifications Engineer